



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
28 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Marshal Yakubovsky, the chief of the Warsaw Pact forces who has been making the rounds of Eastern Europe in recent days, finished his tour yesterday with quick visits to Prague and Bucharest. In Prague he may have discussed terms for the withdrawal of some of the occupying forces and perhaps the outline of a status-of-forces agreement as well.

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2. Soviet Union

The Soviet populace is having trouble swallowing the government's word on Czechoslovakia. Among laborers there is apparently some support for the intervention, but many people are confused by shifts in the official line and by hints in the Soviet press about the attitude of the Czechoslovak people.

There are good indications that the technocrats who man the upper-middle levels of the government are dissatisfied.

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Despite the unhappiness in quite high places, we see no major reshuffling of the present leadership immediately in prospect.

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3. Poland

The Polish intelligentsia is also showing some new life. A leading Polish author has written a moving letter recounting his own reaction to the intervention and has released it to the Western press. In so doing he may give new heart to the Polish intellectual community and encourage the intelligentsia in Czechoslovakia and Hungary as well. His letter will also deepen the splits which have existed in the Polish leadership since the riots last spring.

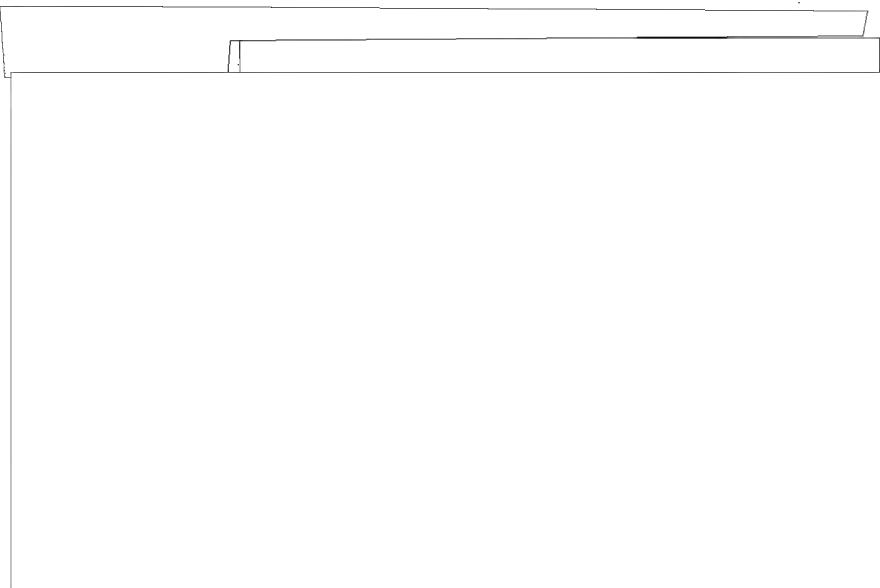
Other Polish authors are writing similar accounts, according to rumors in Warsaw.

4. Nigeria

Ojukwu told his fellow Biafrans Wednesday that "the war is far from ending. In fact, it is just beginning." Biafran forces thereupon retok a hotly contested town in southeastern Biafra.

Ojukwu also said guerrilla warfare will continue if the Biafrans can no longer field a conventional army. His determination could be undermined, however, by federal military successes and the peace efforts of other prominent Biafrans.

5. Malaysia-Britain



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6. Communist China

As part of its effort to get the Red Guards under control, the Peking government is shipping students by the hundreds of thousands to state farms in remote border regions. Hong Kong newspapers report more than 200,000 have been rounded up in Peking alone. So many students are being transferred that many have gotten only as far as the suburbs, where they are being held in hastily constructed detention camps until there is room on the farms.

7. North Vietnam

An article in the August issue of the army journal provides the clearest admission yet that troops from the North are fighting in the South. The article deals with the training of an infantry unit whose members pledge in writing "to go kill the American invaders and liberate the South."

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Truck Traffic Report: Observed truck movements through southern North Vietnam and to the Laos border have dropped markedly. For the third consecutive week pilot reports have indicated a decline in truck traffic south of the 19th Parallel in North Vietnam. During the week 16-22 September some 395 trucks were observed compared with a weekly average of 665 trucks sighted since 1 April. Weather in the area was generally favorable during most of last week.

The indicated fall-off in logistic activity may be due to the lingering effects of last month's severe storms which washed out bridges and flooded roads in North Vietnam's southern regions. The bombing of roads and bridges also is believed to have contributed to slowing traffic.

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Front Offices Elsewhere: The Communists are still having difficulty opening the Front information office in Paris. The French Foreign Office has informed the US Embassy that the arrival of the head of the mission has been again postponed. The holdup this

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time is due to a French desire to give the South Vietnamese ambassador in Paris a chance to explain the move to the government in Saigon. Barring further holdups, the French expect that the Front representative will be allowed to enter any time after 5 October.

The French also admitted that the Front has already exceeded its mandate by issuing a fancy announcement on the establishment of the mission which implied a degree of diplomatic status. The Foreign Office says that the Front's current representative has been taken to task and that the rights, privileges, and limitations of the Front's office will be carefully spelled out to the head of the mission as soon as he arrives. He will be reminded that he enjoys no diplomatic prerogatives of any kind.

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Makarios on Shipping: Yesterday Ambassador Belcher again spoke with Makarios about Cypriot-flag ships calling at North Vietnamese ports. The ambassador noted the Council of Ministers could simply declare North Vietnam out of bounds as not in the interest of the republic. Makarios, who apparently was not aware of this law, said he would try and do just that.

Ships registered in Cyprus have made eleven voyages to North Vietnam this year. This is second only to the British in Free World shipping to North Vietnam. There are two Cypriot ships in Haiphong now.

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Pep Talk on Light Industrial Development: The July 1968 issue of the party theoretical journal carries an article which describes the difficulties encountered in the priority program for developing local industries to meet the needs for agricultural tools and for consumer goods. The article complained that cadres have not understood the importance of the program and have taken the attitude that such industries are uneconomical, have no future, and are designed only to meet emergency wartime needs. Other cadres reportedly desire large-scale industrial complexes with modern technology. Yet others overly rely on state assistance. The "confusion" which has resulted in implementation of the program has reportedly left products "few in number and low in quality."

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

On War Opposition: Radio Hanoi played up war opposition in the United States during an English language broadcast yesterday. The North Vietnamese broadcast was an account of a statement by the American Committee of the Professions which according to Hanoi called for an end to the bombing and recognition of the National Liberation Front as a "potent political force in South Vietnam." The Committee's statement, Hanoi said, supported North Vietnam's contention that the US has actually intensified the bombing.

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